

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-9 (canceled)

10. (currently amended) A carrier for depalletizing and receiving stacks of cartons of frozen animal product ~~into the hold of a ship~~ without the use of slip sheets, for lifting stacks of cartons into the hold of a ship, and for supporting such stacks of cartons for removal therefrom by a load push lift truck for stowage within the ship, the carrier comprising:

a base having an upper surface for receiving and supporting at least one stack of cartons of frozen animal product; ;

a plurality of fork channels in the upper surface capable of receiving the blades of a load push lift truck for removal and stowage of the stack of cartons in the hold of the ship, the base further including a loading edge adjacent to which a pallet bearing a stack of cartons of frozen animal products may be positioned and over which such stack of cartons may be slid onto the carrier from the pallet; and

a connector connected to the base and extending upward therefrom for connecting the base to an overhead lifting device capable of lifting the carrier into the hold of a vessel.

11. (original) The carrier of claim 10 further comprising a pallet stop adjacent the loading edge of the base for engaging an edge of a pallet from which stacks of cartons are to be moved onto the carrier.

12. (original) The carrier of claim 10 wherein the height of the loading edge of the carrier is no greater than the height of pallets from which stacks of cartons may be slid onto the carrier.

13. (currently amended) The carrier of claim ~~10~~ 11 wherein the pallet stop is parallel to the long axis of the fork channels, wherein at least one such fork channel has a wall remote from said pallet stop, and wherein such remote wall is angled upwardly and away from said pallet stop.

14. (currently amended) ~~The carrier of claim 10-~~ A carrier for depalletizing and receiving stacks of cartons of frozen animal product without the use of slip sheets, for lifting the stacks of cartons into the hold of a ship, and for supporting such stacks of cartons for removal therefrom by a load push lift truck for stowage within the ship, the carrier comprising:

a base having an upper surface for receiving and supporting at least one stack of cartons of frozen animal product;

a plurality of fork channels in the upper surface capable of receiving the blades of a load push lift truck for removal and stowage of the stack of cartons in the hold of the ship, the base further including a loading edge adjacent to which a pallet bearing a stack of cartons of frozen animal products may be positioned and over which such stack of cartons may be slid onto the carrier from the pallet; and

a connector mounted to the base and extending upward therefrom for connecting the base to an overhead lifting device capable of lifting the carrier into the hold of a vessel; wherein the base includes at least two areas for receiving stacks of cartons and wherein said connector comprises a center stop connected to the base between said two areas.

15. (original) The carrier of claim 14 wherein the height of said center stop is greater than the height of stacks of cartons to be loaded onto said carrier.

16. (new) A carrier for loading stacks of cartons of frozen animal products onto a ship without the use of slip sheets, the carrier comprising:

a base having a load-receiving surface adjacent one edge thereof for receiving at least one stack of cartons of frozen animal products, the base having a long axis extending parallel to the one edge;

a pallet stop parallel and adjacent to the one edge of the base for engaging the edge of a standard pallet;

a plurality of lifting channels in the load-receiving surface of the carrier, the lifting channels having sufficient length, depth and width to receive the blades of a load push lift truck for lifting of a stack of cartons from the load-receiving surface;

a connector extending upward from the base for connection to an overhead lifting device, the connector comprising pairs of cables, each pair of cables attached to the carrier at opposite sides of the long axis of the carrier.

17. (new) The carrier of claim 16 wherein the base comprises at least two frame members extending parallel to the long axis of the carrier on either side thereof and a plurality of supports extending transversely to the at least two frame members and being connected thereto, the upper surface of the supports forming the load receiving surface of the base, and the supports being spaced laterally from one another such that the lifting channels are formed therebetween.